

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Before I proceed to the next speakers, I would like to introduce some guests of the Legislature. In the south balcony, we have guests of Senator Pirsch. We have forty-one women from the Benson Republican Club and their President, Virginia Kish, and their Coordinator, Betty Olson. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being here. And also in the south balcony we have guests of Senator Hudkins. We have 25 fifth graders from Mead Elementary and their teacher. Would you please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being here. The next speaker is Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. President, members, I hate turf wars and I have friends on both sides. And, like many of you who are not terribly comfortable speaking on this subject, neither am I and, therefore, I yield my time to Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, thank you, Senator Bohlke. No, I do appreciate your time and I don't want to prolong this debate but I think there's a few things we want to talk about. And someone made the comment that in terms of expanding the scope of practice, and, for example, I think it was Senator Moore that talked about laser surgery. Well, guess what happened in Oklahoma just recently? The optometrists came in and wanted to do laser surgery to expand their scope of practice because it wasn't surgery and that it was just another extension. That's the logical conclusion of this whole process. And so I think you've got to be real careful here. Senator Horgan, your speech was super. In fact, I'm going to go get a transcript of it and read it because that's the exact speech I'd give to defeat the entire bill. We don't know what to do. Why should we do it? And we ought to be cautious and not do anything before we act. Well, that applies to 429, exactly right. In fact, I toyed with that, instead of trying to do something so I could vote for 429, I toyed with that speech to do it. Which one of you on the floor has the medical training to do that? No offense, Senator Dierks, I'm not going to let you work on my eyes even though you've had some medical training. But you don't know, so you've got to use your best judgment, and as your best judgment, if you don't know what to do in the area of medicine, do you go ahead and just do these things and say, well, we don't see any problems or horror stories, let's just go ahead and do it and wait for the problems to occur? No, you don't. I think my